

Another therapeutical means in epilepsy is the ligature, in cases in which the aura epileptica, arising from one of the limbs, is present. Dr. Brown-Séquard has two patients, both girls, about the age of nine years, in the hospital, in whom the fits are frequently stopped in this way. The ligature is kept constantly on the arm; when the child feels the warning, the nurse of the ward tightens the bandage, and the fit is prevented. The success in these cases has been very great, and we shall, shortly, by the courtesy of Mr. Smith, the house surgeon, be enabled to place their details before our readers. It is of great consequence to have the ligature in readiness, so that it may be tightened at once. Grasping the limb tightly will do in the absence of proper means, but it is much better to keep a bandage or folded handkerchief tied on the arm ready to be tightened. Dr. Brown-Séquard has invented an apparatus to encircle the arm, and to tighten by a screw, in order that the pressure may be quickly applied.

Dr. Brown-Séquard frequently uses the actual cautery locally in a variety of nervous affections. In epilepsy, patients frequently complain of either a pain or a sensation proceeding from some part of the body. A woman, aged 20, had had fits for thirteen years; they invariably commenced with pain in the left side, just below the mamma. Dr. Brown-Séquard applied the cautery to this part in two or three places. The relief was most marked. It had not prevented the fits altogether, but it had reduced their number very considerably. Instead of having them every other day, she had them only once a week. The cauterizing iron is heated to a white heat, and is then applied suddenly to the part once or twice. It appears to cause but trifling pain, and the patients do not seem at all to dread its repetition.—*Med. Times & Gaz.*, Oct. 27, 1860.

12. *Diabetes treated by Hot-Air Baths.*—Mr. G. M. SWINHÖE relates (*British Med. Journ.*, Nov. 3, 1860) the following case:—

“W. W., a mechanic, a married man, aged 40, applied to me in November last, 1859, with all the symptoms of diabetes, viz., general debility, extreme aching pain in the loins, dry tongue, great thirst, voracious appetite, constipation, dry cough, etc. The specific gravity of his urine (of which he passed from nine to twelve quarts in the twenty-four hours) was 1040; it contained plenty of sugar. His previous history was that of a moderate man, and for the last two years he had been a teetotaler. His work as a spring-maker subjected him to extreme and frequent changes of temperature. I prescribed iron and opium, and regulated the diet so as to exclude all articles containing sugar as much as possible. Under this treatment, he improved, and continued at his work until the end of the following April, when, feeling himself much better, he could not resist the temptation of a dish of potatoes, of which he freely partook, and came to me as bad as ever. I now added to my former treatment vapour baths; but these produced so much exhaustion, that I was obliged to discontinue them, and he to give up work. I now determined to try the hot-air baths, and sent him to London for the purpose. From these he derived such benefit that he was soon able to resume his work; and, having built a bath at the back of his cottage, he has been able to take them regularly, and to give up medicine for the last three or four months. He is now as strong as ever he was in his life; and, notwithstanding a total disregard of all diet regulations, his urine is now scanty, with a specific gravity of 1018, and has lost its sugar.”

13. *Diabetes.*—We have already noticed (No. for Jan. 1860, p. 229) the researches of Dr. Griesinger relative to diabetes, and we shall now give some further particulars. Dr. G. has had occasion to treat nine cases of diabetes, two of which were of the variety insipidus. Eight of the cases proved fatal, and in all *post-mortem* examinations were obtained. In order to draw out as complete a history as possible of the disease Dr. G. has collected, from various sources, 217 sufficiently detailed cases; his conclusions are accordingly based upon 225 observations.

Directing attention, in the first place, to the causes of diabetes, Dr. Griesinger narrates two cases where there might be a suspicion that the disease had been produced by the excessive use of sugar, or of saccharine aliment. A diet too exclusively vegetable, and especially if containing much starchy matter, exer-

cises a marked influence on the production of diabetes. In one case the disease seems to have been produced by a fall; in reference to this mode of causation, Dr. Griesinger found, on analysis of his 225 cases, that in 20 the disease appeared to have had a traumatic origin. In these cases the disease should rather be ascribed to the general shock to the system, than to any special cerebral lesion.

The disease was found to be distributed between the sexes in the following proportions: out of 225 cases, 172 men (76.4 per cent.) and 53 women (23.5 per cent.) were affected. With regard to age, Dr. Griesinger confirms the general opinion with regard to the rarity of the diseases in childhood and in old age; the period when diabetes is most common in either sex is from 20 to 40.

In the majority of cases, tuberculosis supervenes after the disease has existed a certain time. Dr. Griesinger has also observed among diabetic patients a great tendency to inflammations, accompanied with suppuration or gangrene. A constant diminution in the animal temperature was noticed several times. Dr. Griesinger attributes this diminution to an insufficiency of nutrition. In one case the presence of sugar in the urine and in the sweat was found to alternate.

Since the interesting researches of Claude Bernard on the function of the liver, the opinion has been advanced that diabetes might depend upon hypertrophy of this organ. But this opinion is contradicted by an appeal to facts; for in only one case was the liver found to be a little increased in size, and here there had been no hepatic symptoms during life, and after death no large quantity of sugar was found in the organ. It may be stated generally, that the progress of the disease appears to afford little support to the theory which ascribes the production of diabetes principally to the liver. Dr. Griesinger seems disposed to admit that the disease is due to a derangement of the digestive functions, which itself is subordinate to a lesion of innervation. The kidneys were not found to present any marked alteration from the healthy condition. In fact, the result of the *post-mortem* examinations would lead to the belief that diabetes is rather a functional derangement, than an affection produced by a special organic disease.

In reference to treatment, Dr. Griesinger shows the good effects of alkalies, particularly of bicarbonate of soda, administered sometimes to the extent of half an ounce a day. The author has endeavoured to discover what influence other substances exert upon the progress of the disease. Acids augment the quantity of sugar, so do alcoholic liquids. Yeast has been administered, but with no good effect. Attempts have also been made to facilitate the oxidation of the sugar by the inhalation of oxygen, of chlorine, and of ozone, but without success.

The author investigated the point, as to whether diabetic patients may be allowed to drink as much as their thirst prompts them, or whether it is better to cut off a portion. He found that water, taken in large quantity, certainly augments the quantity of urine and of sugar; that a slight diminution produces no effect; that privation from liquids produces a prompt diminution in the amount of sugar; but that the effect of privation is quite temporary, for as soon as the patient has fully quenched his thirst, he passes in the urine large quantities of sugar.

Consequently, Dr. Griesinger concludes that alkaline remedies and an animal diet are the only means at the disposal of the physician in the treatment of this intractable disorder.—*Gaz. Méd. de Paris*, from *Archiv. für Phys. Heilk.*

14. *Encmata of Sulphuric Ether for Ascarides.* By T. OGIER WARD, M. D.—Having read in one of the periodicals that injections of sulphuric ether had been of great service in ascarides, I determined to recommend its use to a patient who had long been troubled with thread-worms. It was used as directed; viz., in a dose of fifteen drops in one ounce of water, which was retained in the rectum, the patient going to bed immediately afterwards. The result was, that the patient, a lady, aged about 36, was not annoyed again for above a fortnight, and then only very slightly; and a repetition of the enema kept her free for three weeks longer; so that she flattered herself she had met with something like a cure for this troublesome complaint; and I also entertained a similar idea, having found the treatment successful in another case of ascarides in the adult. This patient, like the other, found the ether most effectual at first, but it is now quite